GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Women in Agriculture
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women involved in agricultural activities at present in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to launch agricultural promotional schemes to promote Self-Help Groups exclusive by/of women in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocations made by the Government for this scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote productivity levels of women farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): As per Census 2011, at All-India level the percentage share of women as Cultivators and Agricultural labourers is 24.92 and 18.56 percent respectively.

(b) & (c): No Madam. In line with the National Policy on Farmers (2007), the Department is promoting 'Mainstreaming of women in Agriculture' with participation of both men and women in formation of Self Help Groups/Farmers Interest Groups. However, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP), as a sub - component of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which focuses on meeting specific needs of women farmers to achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment through group approach. The Ministry of Rural Development provides funding support of 75% (90% for North Eastern States) to the projects recommended by the State Governments under MKSP. Balance is contributed by the respective State Government or any other donor agencies (national or international) in the form of grants of the Project Implementation Agency. As of now, Ministry of Rural Development has approved 60 projects under MKSP from 17 States with the total Central Government funding of Rs. 618.034 crores which will benefit about 37 lakhs women farmers during the project period.

Further, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 642 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country aiming at assessment and demonstration of technologies/products and its dissemination through number of extension programmes including training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills. During the year 2015-16, KVKs have worked with 2708 women SHGs involving 37,920 women members in different activities.

(d): The Government has taken various pro-women initiatives to promote their involvement in agriculture sector and to in turn improve their productivity. These include:-

i. Involvement of at least 30% women as Scheme beneficiaries in all beneficiary oriented Schemes/ Programmes/Missions through appropriate reflection of the same in the Scheme Guidelines.

ii. Making special provisions for women (over and above/along with men) under different ongoing Schemes/Programmes

iii. Ensuring women's participation in various decisions making bodies involving farmers at Block, District and State Level.

A 'Farm Women Friendly Handbook' carrying provisions for women under various ongoing Schemes has also been recently brought out.

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